



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of the Secretary

August 5, 2010

Glenn T. Cambre, Director
Center for Environmental Health Services
Office of Public Health
Department of Health and Hospitals
628 N. 4th Street
P.O. Box 4489
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4489

Re: Letter of Intent/Clarification – Distance
Between Sinks and Drinking Fountains

Dear Mr. Cambre:

It has recently come to my attention that because the Louisiana State Plumbing Code, 2000 Edition (LSPC) [= Part XIV (Plumbing) of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code (LAC 51:XIV)] does not specifically state a minimum distance requirement between sinks and drinking fountains that many designs specifically for schools are now proposing combination sink and drinking fountain fixtures for use. These types of fixtures pose a significant public health risk regarding the potential for cross contamination of the drinking fountain with bacteria, viruses, chemicals, etc. by the use of a sink sharing the same bowl or located immediately adjacent to the drinking fountain.

Under Section 102.6 (Requirements Not Covered By Code), it authorizes the Plumbing Official to determine any requirements necessary to protect public health when such requirements are not specifically covered by the Code. Section 202 of the LSPC defines the "Plumbing Official" as the State Health Officer and the local plumbing jurisdiction. The State Health Officer is sometimes referred to as the "co-State Plumbing Official" and the local plumbing jurisdiction is sometimes referred to as the "co-Local Plumbing Official". The State Health Officer, acting through the Office of Public Health, promulgates the requirements of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code, including Part XIV (Plumbing) [=LSPC]. The major goal of the promulgation and enforcement of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code, including the LSPC, is the protection of public health and the amelioration of insanitary conditions which can impact public health.

With this in mind and understanding it has never been our intent to allow this type of arrangement or installation it is my intent for the protection of public health that drinking water fountains must have a minimum separation of 18 inches from any sink or other potential source of contamination. This distance is measured from the nearest outside rim of the sink (or other source of contamination) to the spigot of the drinking fountain. No combination sink/drinking

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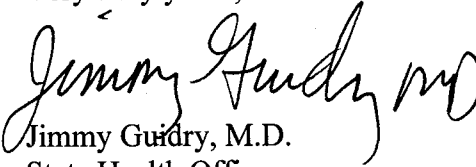
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fountains shall be permitted unless they meet the 18" separation requirement. This 18 inch minimum separation may only be reduced by the use of a vertical shield made of a smooth, easily cleanable surface that extends the full depth of the sink bowl and at least 18 inches in height.

Please ensure that copies of this letter are circulated to your staff and others as appropriate.

Should questions arise, they should be directed to Mr. Jake Causey, P.E., Engineering Services Section, Center for Environmental Health Services, Office of Public Health. Mr. Causey may be reached at (225) 342-7499.

Very truly yours,


Jimmy Guidry, M.D.
State Health Officer

JG/JKC/SGB/sgb

cc: Jerry Jones, Director, Office of Facility Planning & Control, Division of Administration
Karen Irion, Chief Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
Jake Causey, Engineer, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
District/Regional Engineers, Engineering Services Section, CEHS, OPH
Tenney Sibley, Chief Sanitarian, Sanitarian Services Section, CEHS, OPH
Sidney Becnel, Legislative Liaison & Rulemaking Manager, CEHS, OPH
Rene` Chedraui, Sr., Director, Division of Architectural & Engineering Services, DHH
State Plumbing Board of Louisiana c/o John Barker, Executive Director
State Licensing Board for Contractors c/o Charles G. Marceaux, Executive Director
H. "Butch" Browning, Jr., State Fire Marshal, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Joe DeLaune, Architect, Chief Building Official, Building Official Plan Review Division, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council c/o Denise C. Jobe, Administrator, c/o Office of Management and Finance, Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board c/o Donna D. Sentell, Executive Secretary
Louisiana Engineering Society c/o Brenda Gajan, Executive Director
Louisiana Board of Architectural Examiners c/o Mary "Teeney" Simmons, Executive Director
AIA Louisiana c/o Lynn B. Robertson, Executive Director
American Society of Plumbing Engineers, New Orleans Chapter, c/o Ollie French
Local Plumbing Inspectors (from S. Becnel's Excel list)